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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 30 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Ethiopia, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 27 March 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 69 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement on Ethiopia issued by the European Community and its member States on 27 March 1992

The European Community and its member States have, from the beginning, supported the process of democratization in Ethiopia, which was initiated by the national conference held at Addis Ababa in July 1991. The recent signing of a revised National Indicative Programme with Ethiopia, providing for over 200 million ECU of assistance under the Lomé IV Convention, together with member States' bilateral assistance programmes, shows their readiness to support this process. But they firmly believe that the holding of elections, to be preceded by the encampment of the armed forces of the groups involved, as set out in government proclamations, is the essential next step in taking this process forward.

They have, therefore, watched with increasing anxiety over recent weeks the difficulties apparently preventing the electoral process from moving forward. They urge the parties involved to conclude rapidly their negotiations over the encampment of troops and to show an essential spirit of compromise. In this way, the process intended to lead to free and fair elections can get under way again. Any other way forward, in particular any resumption of fighting, is not in the interest of Ethiopia as a whole, or of the country's future development.

The European Community and its member States would be deeply concerned by any abandonment of the process of democratization.